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October 14, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Reply to Comments by Buckeye Hills Regional Council Regarding the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund WC Docket Nos. 19-126 and 10-90

Madam Secretary:

In reply to comments submitted by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council on September 19, 2019.

We are in agreement with the comments provided by the Buckeye Hills Regional Council. Our region has experienced all the same circumstances as described in their comments. Broadband connectivity with low latency is critical to being economically competitive in the regional, state, and international marketplaces. Without the ability to connect with adequate speeds in our residences, the education system in our region suffers as well, which places our next generation further behind those students that already have the opportunities to advance through connectivity. The real estate market also suffers from sorely inadequate connectivity in the homes. The majority of our striving yet struggling region currently remains unconnected, data deprived, and in the digital desert.

The Buckeye Hills Regional Council has studied the process of the RDOF. They have shown how the system needs reconsidered and modified in order to truly meet the intent of the program for areas such as Southeast Ohio where terrain, land cover, and socioeconomic factors have a critical effect towards developing effective coverage and accessibility. These factors are components that need recognized and taken into account in the RDOF process.

We strongly encourage you to reconsider and revamp the processes as recommended in their comments. We would also add that should you decide to "pilot" these changes, please consider adding all 12 Southeastern Ohio Counties supported by the Ohio Valley Regional Development



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Commission. This includes the following Ohio counties: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton. However, we ask that all 25 counties within the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG) in the Southern and Eastern Ohio region be added. Including an area of this size would help bring a healthy, competitive edge to the auction process to help ensure the FCC is fiscally responsible.

Thank you for your time and consideration in the matter. It is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Theodore Lozier, P.E., MBA
Assistant City Manager
City of Gallipolis